(c) and (d) M/s Dassault Aviation has informed that Government proceedings have been initiated against their company by Keyser Inc before 'The Tribunal de Commerce' (Commercial Court) of Paris. M/s. Dassault Aviation have also stated that they have no agreement or commitment whatsoever with anyone or any entity in connection with the contract.

IAF helicopter/MIG plane crashes

1703. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAF helicopters crashed during the last three years;

(b) the number of MIG aircraft crashed during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for such crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Eleven (11).

(b) Forty six (46).

(c) With a view to determine the causes of such accidents, independent Courts of enquiry are constituted and the cause/(s) of each accident is/are determined. Three broad causes have been identified for aircraft accidents. They are—Human error, Technical Defect and Bird Hit.

Indian Naval and airfield facilities for operations in Afghanistan

1704. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has sought use of naval and airfields facilities in India for its military campaign in Afghanistan; and

(b) if so, the response and reaction of Government in these regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Government has received specific requests for assistance in connection with 'Operation Enduring Freedom' from certain friendly countries, including the United States. Those requests that conform to our existing policy guidelines for overflights and refueling of aircraft and port calls by naval ships have been approved.